



February 23, 2021

Ellen Wheatley, Acting Director  
Office of Child Care (OCC)  
US Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Proposal / Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Child Care Center and Assistance Program

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

Description:

CRST Child Care Center and Child Care Assistance program shall employ additional staff to assist with administering aspects necessary to ensure the implementation of Plan changes and contract help in regards to Covid-19 prevention, and help providers sustain business.

Supporting Continuous Quality Improvement; Personnel

- Hire administrative support to help with financial processing and reporting of CRRSA funds
- Hire additional Nursery Aides to decrease child:staff ratio
- Apply hiring and retention bonuses for staff and providers
- Increase paid time off; after experiencing symptoms and positive Covid-19 test from center exposure, and caring for a household member
- Increase hours of operation to meet the needs of essential workers and time for provider training
- Contract outside help for deep cleaning

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

Description:

CRST Child Care Center shall purchase amenities that will allow the program the advantage of securing a safe environment in the ongoing effort to reduce the transmission of the Covid-19 and each having its own purpose.

Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan Disaster and Preparedness

For Centers:

- Purchase and installation of underground storm shelters X 5
- Purchase snow blowers X 2

- Purchase security cameras
- Purchase secured door-entry system
- Purchase and install air filtration system
- Purchase touchless faucets, soap dispensers, sanitizer stations X 5
- Purchase and build a greenhouse
- Purchase Bobcat Skid Steer

#### For Centers and Providers

- Purchase generators X 2
- Purchase toy sanitizing and disinfectant machine X 4
- Purchase additional storage container

### Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

#### Description:

CRST Child Care Center and Assistance program shall make genuine attempts to meet the needs of parents and children and providers with continued training, monitoring, and supplies necessary to reduce the Covid-10 risk

#### Parent needs

- Provide child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farmers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus, with out regard to the income eligibility requirements

#### Provider needs

- Provide continued payments and assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures related to coronavirus, and to assure providers are able to remain open or reopen.
- To cover the cost of family copays and for paying that portion of the provider's cost normally covered by copays.
- Provide mini-grants to providers to hire additional staff working through the pandemic
- Assist family child care providers in hiring assistants for their home-based child care facilities
- First Aid kits and additional refills
- Distribute care packages full of cleaning supplies
- Alternative to immediate provider certification
- Purchase COVID -19 tests
- Technology to support distance learning for school age children while in child care: computers or laptops, Internet services for providers

### Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

For any providers in our area who could take CCDF subsidy, but are not, we will make available cleaning equipment, personal protection equipment (masks, gloves, shields, etc.), and cleaning equipment.

#### Description:

CRST Child Care Center Assistance program shall make genuine efforts contact non-participant providers by public communications outlets; local radio station announcement, local newspaper announcement, social media networking, and interoffice tribal office networking, especially in rural communities and homes, to help meet the needs in reducing the Covid-19 transmission by supplying personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, face shields/masks, thermometers, pulse oximeters, and cleaning supplies; bleach, clothes, Clorox wipes. Availability of items and travel are major barriers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/

Candace Hollow Horn, Director

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Child Care Center / *Únki Tąkoja Oti*

cc: Mr Anthony M Riley, Acting Division Chief / Division of Workforce  
Karen Knoll-Moran, Office of Child Care Regional Program Manager / Region VIII  
Harold Frazier, Chairman / Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Arlen Lee, Director / Oyate Connections / Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
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